# Rendi Chevi

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## Research Interest

*Natural language processing, psycholinguistics, social computing, human-computer/AI interaction*.

I'm working at the intersection of natural language processing, psycholinguistics, and social computing. My primary interest is to understand how language in the media that we consume could enable (or disable) certain cognitive biases that influence our behavior and decision making.

## Education

**Ph.D. in Natural Language Processing**, *MBZUAI*, *Abu Dhabi*.
Aug 2025 - Present

- Advised by Tatsuki Kuribayashi.
- Main Research: *Designing psycholinguistic elicitation method to study the linguistic features (morphosyntactic, stylistic, semantic, etc.) that enable (or disable) people's cognitive biases.*

**B.Eng. in Electrical and Biomedical Engineering**, *Universitas Indonesia*, *Jakarta*.
Jun 2016 - Jan 2020

- GPA: 3.74 / 4.00
- Relevant Courseworks: *Probability and Statistics, Modeling and Simulations, Algorithms and Programming*.

## Publication

### How Individual Traits and Language Styles Shape Preferences in Open-ended User-LLM Interaction: A Preliminary Study

GenAI Workshop at CHI, 2025 | PAPER

*Rendi Chevi*, Kentaro Inui, Thamar Solorio, Alham F. Aji.*

### A Comprehensive Multimodal Benchmark for Theory of Mind

EMNLP Findings, 2025 | PAPER, DATASET

*Emilio Villa-Cueva, S.M. Masrur Ahmed, Rendi Chevi*, (+7 authors), et al.*

### Bridging the Gap in Human-Annotated Textual Emotion Recognition Datasets for 28 Languages

ACL Main, 2025 | PAPER, DATASET

*Shamsuddeen H. Muhammad, Nedjma Ousidhoum, et al. (Huge collaboration with 30+ authors).*

### A Quick Exploration on Emotional Pattern of Empathy and Distress

WASSA Shared Task at ACL, 2024 | PAPER

*Rendi Chevi*, Alham F. Aji.*

### Culturally-diverse Multilingual Visual Question Answering Benchmark

NeurIPS Dataset Track, 2024 | PAPER, DATASET

*David Romero, Chenyang Lyu, Haryo A. Wibowo, et al. (Huge collaboration with 30+ authors).*

**Simulating Wider Spectrum of Emotions via Prosody Embedding Decomposition**
Preprint, 2024 | PAPER, DEMO
*Rendi Chevi*, Alham F. Aji.*

**Lightweight and End-to-end Text-to-Speech Model via Module-wise Distillation**
IEEE SLT, 2023 | PAPER, MODEL
*Rendi Chevi*, Radityo E. Prasojo, Alham F. Aji, Andros Tjandra, Sakriani Sakti.*

## Work Experience

**Research Associate II**, *MBZUAI*, *Abu Dhabi*.
Aug 2023 - Aug 2025

- Part of Alham Fikri Aji's Lab. Worked in the intersection of *NLP* and *Social Computing*.
- Led a project in developing an *explainable model* to measure linguistic expressions of *moral emotions* in socio-political domain. Collaboration with Jaehong Kim and Prof. Wonjae Lee from KAIST Social Computing Lab.
- Designed and implemented a *user study* to investigate how *AI literacy* and *cognitive traits* influence the *pedagogical decisions* of Indonesian K-12 teachers.
- Conducted research on the emergence of *mixed emotions* within *emotional text-to-speech* models and the users perception toward the models.

**Research Scientist**, *Kata.ai*, *Jakarta*.
May 2021 - Jul 2023

- Part of *AI Research* team, worked with AI researchers and linguists focused in developing NLP and speech technologies for enabling *localized*, *emotional*, and *open-ended* chatbot agents.
- Managed a team of linguists and annotators to built Indonesian *grapheme-to-phoneme* (G2P) corpus. Developed *Transformer-based* G2P model on top of the corpus, achieved 4.84% in PER.
- Managed a team to develop a *culturally-specific* and *emotional text-to-speech* for 2D/3D avatars of local brands. Resulting in an experimental *pitch*-conditioned TTS model.
- Developed a collection of distilled *BERT-based* models for various NLP tasks (e.g. *emotion classification*, *entity recognition*), achieving up-to 96.7% model reduction while maintaining usable predictive performance.

**Research Assistant**, *Indonesian Medical Education and Research Institute*, *Jakarta*.
Aug 2020 - Jan 2021

- Part of *Medical Technology* team, developed prototypes to address the needs of medical practitioners in an Indonesian hospital.
- Prototyped an image classifier for skin viability detection in low-resource settings, achieving 92% recall in clinical test dataset.
- Prototyped a multi-task CNN-based model for 3D human pose estimation for geriartric use cases (e.g. patient monitoring, fall detection).

## Teaching & Mentoring

**NLP.702 Week 6**, *MBZUAI*, Feb 2024. Assisted in teaching a class of master's students on the theory and implementation of lightweight fine-tuning of Large Language Models.

**Data Science Academy**, *COMPFEST Universitas Indonesia*, Aug 2022. Given a talk and workshop on introductory data science and machine learning for undergraduate computer science students.

**AI TensorFlow Workshop**, *Polytechnic Institute of Surabaya*, Mar 2022. Given a workshop on applied deep learning with TensorFlow for engineering faculty members.

## Skills

**Research Methods**: Survey design, user study, crowdsourcing, quantitative analysis (multiple/moderated/mediated regression analysis), NLP and psycholinguistic study (lexical/syntactic/semantic analysis, topic modeling), machine learning (discriminative/generative modeling, explainable AI).

**Programming**: Python, Javascript, HTML, CSS.

**Data Science, NLP, AI Tools**: Pandas, Scikit-Learn, Scipy, Statsmodel, Numpy, Spacy, NLTK, Pytorch, TensorFlow.

**Data Visualization, Illustration Tools**: Matplotlib, Seaborn, Figma, Affinity/Photoshop/Illustrator.

**Developer Tools**: Git, Bash Linux, Docker.